GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:503
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2006
SATELLITE LANDMARK SPACE NAVIGATION PROJECT
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed up to the Galileo Project in September, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith discussion between Prime Minister and EU leaders in the Helsinki;

(c) whether Indian participation in the Galileo Project has run into hard on the ground of security concern;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether India is likely to quit this EU project as reported in the `Times of India` dated the October 16, 2006;

(f) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(g) the present status of India in this project?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) India has initiated a Framework Agreement with European Union in September 2005 with the intention of participation in the European GALILEO System, which is under development for satellite based navigation services. This agreement is being negotiated between India and the member countries of European Union.

(b) At the 7th India-EU Summit at Helsinki (October 13, 2006), Prime Minister expressed the hope that the European Union would be in a position to conclude an Agreement confirming India`s membership of the Galileo Global Satellite Project.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Any negotiation can start only after the European Union countries give clearance for signing the agreement.